

The summertime is full of sunshine and outdoor fun, but like any season there are potential hazards to be aware of. The Sturgis Fire Department has provided the following safety tips to help citizens have an injury-free, fourth-of-July celebration.

Fireworks Safety

Fireworks are a summertime tradition. The best way to enjoy fireworks is to visit **public fireworks** displays put on by professionals who know how to safely handle fireworks; however, fireworks can legally sold between June 27-July 5 in South Dakota, and you if choose to use them, there are several safety guidelines that should be followed:

- Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
- Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.
- Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks.
- Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it.
- Always read the directions and warning labels on fireworks. If a device is not marked with the contents, direction, and a warning label, do not light it.
- Supervise children around fireworks at all times.

Applicable Laws:

City of Sturgis Ordinance Title 12.08.03:

No person shall explode, set off or fire any fireworks within the City or within one mile thereof except during the specified allowable time period which shall commence at 6:00 am July 3rd and end at 12:00 am July 5th.

No person shall at any time including the time period specified above explode, set off or fire any fireworks within any City park.

City of Sturgis 1.01.03:

Except as specifically provided within the applicable Title, any violation of the provisions of this City of Sturgis Code of Ordinance is a Class 2 misdemeanor punishable by the maximum punishment set forth by the laws of the state of South Dakota pursuant to SDCL 22-6-2. Said punishment may also include payment of any cost and/or restitution authorized by this Title and/or state law.

Meade County Ordinance 27

Regulations

- i. No person may ignite any fireworks when the National Weather Service has declared the Grassland Fire Danger to be Very High or Extreme.

- a. The penalty for violation of this ordinance shall be a fine up to \$200.00 or 30 days in jail or both.
- b. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit or supersede any civil remedy otherwise available to any person or entity.
- c. The permissibility of the ignition of any fire or firework as specified herein shall not operate to relieve the ignitor of the duty of care otherwise imposed; nor shall this ordinance operate to absolve any person of any liability for damages which may occur as a result of the fire.

South Dakota Codified Law

34-37-11. Sale or use prohibited in forests, parks and other specified areas--
Exception--Violation as misdemeanor. No person may sell or cause to be sold, discharge, or cause to be discharged, any pyrotechnics of any description or any consumer fireworks within the exterior boundaries of the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District, and no person may discharge or cause to be discharged any pyrotechnics or consumer fireworks within a zone that extends three hundred feet beyond the exterior boundaries of the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District in this state. No person may sell or cause to be sold, discharge, or cause to be discharged, any pyrotechnics of any description or any consumer fireworks within any national forest, national park, state forest, or any land owned or leased by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. However, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks may, by written authorization, permit the discharge of pyrotechnics or consumer fireworks, pyrotechnic displays, sales, or exhibits on land owned or leased by the department unless otherwise prohibited by statute. Any violation of this section which occurs on any land owned or leased by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks is a Class 2 misdemeanor. Any subsequent violation of this Section is a Class 1 misdemeanor.